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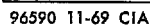
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South Vietnam: The intensity of the opening phase of the enemy's winter-spring campaign tapered off somewhat this weekend, but there are indications that further actions may come in the near future.

The most significant recent ground actions occurred in the Mekong Delta, where the Vietnamization program is facing one of its stiffest challenges. In the heaviest action, a task force of six South Vietnamese Army battalions clashed with a Viet Cong battalion on the edge of the U Minh Forest, a Communist stronghold in the southern delta. Seventy enemy troops were killed; government regulars lost eight killed and 43 wounded. Sharp fighting also flared at the opposite end of the country where, in several skirmishes in the southern half of the Demilitarized Zone, South Vietnamese forces killed at least 50 North Vietnamese troops.

Prisoners, defectors, and captured documents continue to reveal plans for stepped-up attacks during November and December, including sapper actions against Saigon.

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Argentina: High-ranking Argentine military and government officials are strongly urging that the US reverse its decision not to sell Douglas A4B attack bombers to the Argentine Navy.

The former Argentine ambassador to the US told the US ambassador on 7 November that the sale of the aircraft was becoming a real test of US-Argentine relations. He said that the Ongania government's decision to buy the new planes by February 1970 is firm and, if they are unavailable from the US, the government will look elsewhere. The official warned that "protestations of friendship" will be meaningless should the US let Argentina down in this modest request.

The navy commander in chief, Admiral Gnavi, also renewed his plea for a favorable decision, emphasizing the possibility that the Argentine Navy's present orientation toward the US might have to be shifted toward Europe if its request is denied.

The 16 aircraft requested by the Argentine Navy will be assigned to the used aircraft carrier purchased last year from the Netherlands and recently commissioned into service. The air force has obtained 50 of these aircraft since 1966, but the Argentines have been informed that the US Government would not approve the sale of attack aircraft, such as the A4B, to the navy.

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NOTES

Egypt-Israel: An Egyptian naval bombardment of Israeli installations in the Sinai Peninsula on 8 November may draw retaliatory action from Tel Aviv. Cairo claims extensive damage was inflicted by the raid, but Israeli sources report no damage or casualties. The raid probably was scheduled to coincide with the harsh public statements being issued by the Arab foreign and defense ministers who are meeting in Cairo. [REDACTED]

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UN - Communist China: The UN General Assembly will probably take its annual vote on the Chinese representation issue early this week. The debate so far has produced no sparks, and there are no signs of late developments, such as diplomatic recognition of Peking by Canada or Italy, that could affect the voting pattern. Nations supporting the position of Taiwan are expected to succeed again in having the issue declared an important question. This requires a two-thirds vote of the Assembly members. The Albanian-type resolution to seat Peking and expel Taiwan will probably be rejected thereafter by a margin slightly less than that in 1968. [REDACTED]

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UN - Space Treaty: The Soviets now have indicated that they hope to work out with the US a space liability treaty that could be submitted for approval by the UN General Assembly at the current session. Such a treaty would define compensation for countries damaged by space accidents, including the wayward return to earth of space vehicles of other nations.

Moscow has refused to accept binding arbitration as a method of settling disputes over compensation, but it may alter its position in response to criticism by non-space powers. Some UN members are sensitive about their exclusion from negotiations on this treaty. They also tend to regard such a document as another test case of the superpowers' interest in further arms-control measures.

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India: The rift within the Congress Party leadership continues following a flurry of mediation efforts that culminated in a meeting on 7 November between party president Nijalingappa and Prime Minister Gandhi. At her press conference the following day, Mrs. Gandhi revealed that no agreement had been reached at the meeting, and she again laid all blame for the crisis on her opponents. Immediate attention is focusing on a meeting of the Congress' governing working committee, dominated by Mrs. Gandhi's enemies, which is expected to convene by 13 November and which may take disciplinary action against the prime minister and her supporters. Such action would further reduce the already slim chances for an eventual compromise between the warring factions.

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